

(d) by when the Special Economic Zone would be set up by that company?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (d) No such proposal has been received from M/s. WIPRO for setting up Special Economic Zone in Nagpur.

Avoiding SEZS on agricultural land

725. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the SEZ Board is not supposed to give clearance to any SEZ proposal which includes Prime Agricultural Land ;

(b) if so, what is the specific definition of Prime Agricultural Land;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Visakhapatnam SEZ covers cashewnut and coconut plantations;

(d) if so, the steps proposed to remove all coconut and cashewnut plantations from the Visakhapatnam SEZ; and

(e) the reasons for ignoring rules regarding avoiding use of agricultural land?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) Land being a State subject, the approvals for SEZ are given based on the recommendations of the concerned State Government. The States have been advised that while acquiring land for SEZs, if perforce a portion of double cropped agricultural land has to be acquired to meet the minimum area requirements, especially for multi-product SEZs, the same should not exceed 10% of the total land required for the SEZ.

(c) The Visakhapatnam SEZ set up by the Central Government has been functioning at Visakhapatnam since 1994. There are only a few Cashewnut plants in this SEZ.

(d) There is no such proposal.

(e) Does not arise.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.